

D-R-A-F-T
COLUMBUS-STILLWATER COUNTY
CITY-COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Stillwater County Annex Planning Department, 809 E. 4th Avenue N., Suite C

Members Present: Rod Fink (Vice-President), Ron Barndt, Jeanne Kienitz, Webb Mandeville, Susie Schreiner Dennis Holten, and Jeff Ruffatto.

Members Not Present: Ed Viig (President), Don Parks.

Guests: Jennifer Reis, Dennis Oltrogge, Charles Woods, Jan Woods, June Mandeville, and Alice Nordahl.

Staff Present: Forrest Mandeville

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Rod called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m..

II. MINUTES

Jeff made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 meeting. Ron seconded; with all in favor motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Columbus Area Trails Plan – Public Hearing. Forrest gave an overview of the Columbus Area Trails Plan, explaining that the Board decided to create this plan after seeing a need expressed on the Growth Planning Surveys which were distributed by the Planning Office during the summer of 2008. Forrest also explained how desired trails were identified by the Board. It was also explained that this Plan will not create the trails noted within the Plan, will give guidance to the Town of Columbus as it creates and builds a trail system.

After Forrest gave an overview of the Plan, Rod opened the public hearing.

Alice Nordahl, a property owner in Columbus, expressed concern over whether or not proposed trails would share roadways with vehicles, and who would police the trails. Forrest responded that some trails, such as bike lanes, are proposed as sharing roadways with vehicles, but other trails would be separated from roadways. Mrs. Nordahl also expressed surprise at how extensive the Plan was, and concern over maintenance of the trails and safety for trail users in areas with no street lights. Mrs. Nordahl also mentioned that new residents are surprised to see pedestrians, especially kids, using streets, due to a lack of pedestrian facilities.

Jan Woods, a property owner in Columbus, mentioned that a proposed trail goes by her house on Highway 10, that she walks every day, and sees a need for this Plan due to the number of people she sees walking by her house. Rod asked Mrs. Woods what she would like to see

along the road by her house, and she replied that a path dedicated to walkers would be good to have. She also expressed concern for kids which currently have no other option than to walk or ride bikes on the streets.

Dennis noted that priorities would have to be set for the development of this Plan, as it would have to be developed in phases, and that public input is vital for the prioritization of trails. Webb stated that a good reason to have a plan such as this is what happened when the new bridge was built over Keyser Creek on Highway 10, when the Town was unable to get a walking path put in. It is his hope that having this Plan will better ensure walking facilities will be included in future projects.

Chuck Woods expressed concern over the speed limit on Highway 10 and the Rapleje Road, and stated that lower speed limits would make it safer for pedestrians. However, these roads are operated by the State, and the Town of Columbus does not have jurisdiction over these Roads.

June Mandeville said that she would like to see well paved trails, bags for picking up after dogs along the trails, and panels offering exercise advice along certain trails, such as through Granite Peak Park and Itch-Kep-Pe Park. Jeanne mentioned that she would like garbage receptacles located along the trails. Dennis said he would like to see benches along trails.

Forrest mentioned that he had talked to Dale Schlehuber, since a proposed trail runs along his property on Keyser Creek, and that Mr. Schlehuber was supportive of the Plan overall, especially along Centennial Road past his property, but that he was concerned over the potential disturbance of deer which bed down behind his house along Keyser Creek. Forrest mentioned that his concerns had been noted in the Plan.

At this point Rod asked if there were any more comments from the public. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing.

Dennis made the motion to recommend to the Town Council that the Columbus Area Trail Plan be adopted with the comments obtained at the public hearing being incorporated. Susie seconded; with all in favor motion carried.

Ron mentioned that one question the Town Council will ask is from where the funding will come, since the Town does not have anything budgeted for trails at this time. Forrest mentioned that there is grant funding available for projects such as this, and that having this Plan will guide the Town in applying for these grants, as well as allowing the Town to prove it has a plan for developing a trail system.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

V. OTHER

A. Tree Board. Rod asked Dennis the status of putting together a Tree Board, as allowed by the Tree Ordinance that was passed by the Town a while ago. Dennis said that a Board has not yet been organized.

VI. ADJOURN

With no more business, Rod adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m..

The next regular meeting date is April 27, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. and to be held at the Stillwater County Annex Planning Department building.

Forrest J. Mandeville
Planner 1